

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Feng Shan on January 11, 2012.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 40 line 1 [[according to claim 39]] has been deleted.

Claim 40 line 1 after "Biological chip" --comprising the device according to claim 20-- has been inserted.

Claim 40 line 1 after "being" [[chosen from the group consisting of nucleic acid chips, antibody chips, antigen chips, protein chips, and cell chips]] has been deleted.

Claim 40 line 1 after "being" --functionalized for analysis of nucleic acids, antibodies, proteins, or cells--has been inserted.

Claims 37-39, 41, 45, and 46 are cancelled.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record does not teach or suggest an operating device and an operating plate comprising a substrate having an active surface that is non-wetting with respect to a liquid of interest, a plurality of capture zones formed on the active surface wherein the capture zones are wetting with respect to a liquid of interest, a plurality of operating zones formed on the active surface wherein the

operating zones are non-wetting with respect to a liquid of interest, and surrounded discontinuously by the capture zones such that the operating zones are partially covered by the liquid of interest captured by the capture zones, and a means for supplying the liquid of interest. Additionally, the prior art does not teach or suggest a method for fabrication of the device as described in claim 1.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dwan A. Gerido whose telephone number is (571)270-3714. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 9:00 - 6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vickie Kim can be reached on (571) 272-0579. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Dwan A Gerido/
Examiner, Art Unit 1777

/ROBERT J HILL JR/
Primary Examiner, TC 1700